

# Press&Dakotan

## DAILY DOSE

Daily opinions from the P&D Sports Staff on local and national high school, college and professional sports.



BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
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The Summit League Basketball Tournament has had a great run in Sioux Falls. This year's was the best to date.

The 2013 edition saw records set for men's (23,710), women's (21,158) and total (44,868) attendance, as well as for the women's championship (6,153).

But, believe it or not, it could get bigger.

Over 2,500 all-session tickets have already been sold for the 2014 championships, the final one that will be held at Sioux Falls Arena.

### Beckmann Breaks 1,000-Point Barrier

Bloomfield, Neb., senior Chet Beckmann was recognized earlier this year for scoring his 1,000th career point during his high school basketball career. The 6-0 senior guard finished his career with 1,096 points, including 289 this past season. He was a four-year starter for the Bees. Beckmann (second from left) is pictured with head coach Mark Luger and Beckmann's parents, Robbin and Chad Beckmann.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

### RC Gymnastics & Cheer Session 4 Begins Sunday

River City Gymnastics and Cheer now open and accepting registrations for Session 4.

Classes begin March 17 and run for 8 weeks. Registration forms are available on the River City website at [www.yankton-rivercitygymnastics.com](http://www.yankton-rivercitygymnastics.com), or call Justin at 605-661-4971.

### Fox Run Golf Meetings Coming Up

Fox Run Golf Course has announced its upcoming meetings for its summer golf leagues. Each meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at the Fox Run clubhouse.

The meeting for all men's leagues will be held on Thursday, March 14. The senior league meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 2.

For more information, contact Fox Run Golf Course at 605-668-5205.

### Tri-Star Hoops Contest April 6

The Tri-Star Basketball Contest will be held Saturday, April 6 from 10-11:30 a.m. at Laddie E. Cimpr Arena on the Mount Marty College campus in Yankton.

The contest will consist of three skills: Dribbling, passing and shooting. Boys and girls ages 8-13 will compete in separate age groups.

Awards will be presented for the first 3rd place winners in each

age group.

For more information, contact Glenn Mannes with the Yankton Morning Optimist Club by email at [glenn@mannesarchitects.com](mailto:glenn@mannesarchitects.com) or by phone at 605-9465.

### Umpires Meeting March 17

VERMILLION — There will be a certification meeting for baseball umpires on Sunday, March 17 at the Vermillion High School gym.

Start time is 2 p.m. For more information, contact John Wieseler at 661-7806.

### U-12 Boys' Club Soccer Parents Meeting Sunday

There will be a parents' meeting for any parents who have a U-12 boy who would like to play club soccer this coming year. The meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 17, at 6 p.m., at the Summit Activities Center meeting room.

Dates of tournaments and other items will be discussed. For more information, contact Deb Lillie at 661-1296.

### We Want To Hear From You

If you have any sports-related story ideas, upcoming events or comments, feel free to contact us at [sports@yankton.net](mailto:sports@yankton.net) or by mail at 319 Walnut, Yankton, S.D., 57078.

Be sure to include all pertinent information, including your name, phone number and your story idea or comment.

## HOCKEY STANDOUTS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Yankton Morning Optimist Club conducted its annual Tri-Star Hockey Skills Competition on March 2 at Alcoa Ice Arena. Pictured are the winners from each age group, along with Optimist Club president John Lillevoid, far left: (front, L-R) Dawson Vellek, 1st age 7-9; Cole Pedersen, 2nd 7-9; Alexander Nockels, 3rd 7-9; (back) Oakley Palmer, 1st 12-13; Caid Koletzky, 2nd 12-13; Jaxon Erickson, 3rd 12-13; Keith Schenekl, 1st 11-12; Ryan Eichacker, 2nd 11-12 and Brody Burgeson, 3rd 11-12.

## Big 12

From Page 9

anyone wants to play them. Obviously, Kansas is one of the best teams in the country."

The Big 12 missed out on some of the spotlight when Kansas suffered its first three-game losing streak in eight years just as it was getting into the conversation as a possible No. 1 team. Instead, the conference has been largely overshadowed, even as Kansas State won 10 of its final 12 games and Oklahoma State won 11 of 13.

"The Big 12's a terrific league. A lot of times, the bar is set early and then regardless of what happens, it just kind of plays that way throughout the year," Oklahoma coach Lon Kruger said. "But I think the Big 12's turned out to be a much stronger, deeper conference than what maybe people were talking about early."

While the Big Ten has had a cluster of teams near the top of the rankings and the ACC has had a high-profile struggle between Miami and Duke, the Big 12 title ended up being won in reverse. Oklahoma State lost its

that's a big-time Division I atmosphere," Herbst said. "You see a lot of those conference finals that are played at a neutral site, and you're hoping for a half-full arena, not a sold-out arena like this one was."

Williams joked about having trouble calling timeouts on Tuesday because of the noise, but said she was glad her players got to experience that environment.

"What an amazing stage for our kids to be on," she said. "It shows to me the passion that our state has for women's basketball; they value it."

"We were honored to be part of something that big."

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at [twitter.com/jhoeck](http://twitter.com/jhoeck)

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## SCOREBOARD

### BOWLING

#### YANKTON BOWL

##### SPARETIME

HIGH TEAM GAME: First Dakota 840  
HIGH TEAM SERIES: First Dakota 2444  
HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAME: Marvin Guthmiller 240, Kelly Mermin 231, Willis Gramkow 228 (errorless), Betty Adam 198, Elaine List 197, Sharon Scissons 169  
HIGH INDIVIDUAL SERIES: Kelly Mermin 636, Willis Gramkow 569, Marvin Guthmiller 554, Elaine List 502, Betty Adam 479, Lonnie Remington 472  
STANDINGS: Ten Pins 26-14, R&D Loekers 25-5-14-5, Mistifs 23-17, Country Bumpkins 22-5-17-5, Pinheads 21-19, Bob's Hobby Supply 20-20, RTBN 19-21, Alley Kats 18-22, TCB 16-24  
HIGHLIGHTS: Romain Loecker - errorless 224; Elmer Misar 3-10; Lonnie Remington 2-7; Cindy Somer 5-6-10, 4-7-10

##### MONDAY MIXED

HIGH TEAM GAME: Bob's Hobby Supply 489

HIGH TEAM SERIES: Ten Pins 1281

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAME: Marvin Guthmiller 240, Kelly Mermin 231, Willis Gramkow 228 (errorless), Betty Adam 198, Elaine List 197, Sharon Scissons 169

HIGH INDIVIDUAL SERIES: Kelly Mermin 636, Willis Gramkow 569, Marvin Guthmiller 554, Elaine List 502, Betty Adam 479, Lonnie Remington 472

STANDINGS: Ten Pins 26-14, R&D Loekers 25-5-14-5, Mistifs 23-17, Country Bumpkins 22-5-17-5, Pinheads 21-19, Bob's Hobby Supply 20-20, RTBN 19-21, Alley Kats 18-22, TCB 16-24

HIGHLIGHTS: Romain Loecker - errorless 224; Elmer Misar 3-10; Lonnie Remington 2-7; Cindy Somer 5-6-10, 4-7-10

##### MOONSHINERS

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAME: Kevin Cole 186, Jerry Byrkeland 185, Wendy Wiebehaus 171, Carol Myers 167

HIGH INDIVIDUAL SERIES: Randy Gross 498, Elaine Lane 447

STANDINGS: Quizzo's 45-30, FECC-L&S 43-32, 2 Kevins & Girl 42-33, Steamway 41-34, JB Auto 38-37

HIGHLIGHTS: Bob Wieseler 5-10, 5-7, 3-6-7-10

### BASKETBALL

#### YANKTON PARKS & REC

##### MEN'S JUST FOR FUN TOURN.

CHAMPIONSHIP: CorTrust 60, Team Ramrod 43

#### NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOC.

##### EASTERN CONFERENCE

###### Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	38	23	.623	—
Brooklyn	35	29	.547	2
Boston	38	29	.567	1/2
Toronto	25	40	.385	15
Philadelphia	24	40	.375	15 1/2

###### Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Miami	49	14	.778	—
Atlanta	43	29	.596	2
Washington	21	42	.333	18
Orlando	18	47	.277	32
Charlotte	14	50	.219	35 1/2

###### Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	40	24	.625	—
Chicago	35	28	.556	4 1/2
Milwaukee	32	31	.508	7 1/2
Detroit	23	43	.348	18
Cleveland	22	42	.344	18

###### WESTERN CONFERENCE

###### Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	49	16	.754	—
Memphis	43	29	.596	4 1/2
Houston	35	30	.538	14
Dallas	30	33	.476	18
New Orleans	22	43	.338	27

###### Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	48	17	.738	—
Denver	43	29	.596	5
Utah	33	32	.508	15
Portland	29	34	.460	18
Minnesota	22	40	.355	24 1/2

###### Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Clippers	45	20	.692	—
Golden State	36	29	.554	9

## AREA CALENDAR

### Thursday, March 14

BASEBALL, COLLEGE MMC vs. Valley City State at Tucson, Ariz. (DH, 11 a.m.)

BASKETBALL, BOYS' S.D. State Class AA Tour. at Sioux Falls; S.D. State Class A Tour. at Rapid City (Platte-Geddes); S.D. State Class B Tour. at Aberdeen (Viborg-Hurley)

SOFTBALL, COLLEGE Tucson Inv. (MMC vs. Avila, 11 a.m.; MMC vs. Purdue-North Central, 1:30 p.m.)

Friday, March 15

BASEBALL, COLLEGE MMC vs. Minot State at Tucson, Ariz. (2 p.m.); MMC vs. Wayland Baptist at Tucson, Ariz. (6 p.m.)

### BASKETBALL, BOYS' S.D. State Class AA Tour. at Sioux Falls; S.D. State Class A Tour. at Rapid City (Platte-Geddes); S.D. State Class B Tour. at Aberdeen (Viborg-Hurley)

SOFTBALL, COLLEGE Tucson Inv. (MMC vs. Baker, 1:30 p.m.; MMC vs. Dickinson State, 3:30 p.m.)

Saturday, March 16

BASKETBALL, BOYS' S.D. State Class AA Tour. at Sioux Falls; S.D. State Class A Tour. at Rapid City (Platte-Geddes); S.D. State Class B Tour. at Aberdeen (Viborg-Hurley)

Sunday, March 17

No activities scheduled

City, Kan.

Oct. 12 — Bank of America 500, Concord, N.C.

Oct. 20 — Camping World RV Sales 500, Talladega, Ala.

Oct. 27 — Goody's Fast Relief 500, Ridgeview, Va.

Nov. 3 — AAA Texas 500, Fort Worth, Texas

Nov. 10 — AdvoCare 500, Avondale, Ariz.

Nov. 17 — Ford EcoBoost 400, Homestead, Fla.

Driver Standings

1. Jimmie Johnson, 129.

2. Brad Keselowski, 124.

3. Dale Earnhardt Jr., 119.

4. Denny Hamlin, 102.

5. Carl Edwards, 98.

6. Mark Martin, 95.

7. Matt Kenseth, 93.

8. Greg Biffle, 93.

9. Clint Bowyer, 89.

10. Aric Almirola, 88.

Reggie Bush on a four-year contract, DE Jason Jones on a three-year contract and CB Chris Houston. Signed S Glover Quin to a five-year contract.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS—Released WR Laurent Robinson.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS—Signed CB Dunta Robinson, OL Bryan Mattison, WR Donnie Avery, QB Chase Daniel and TE Anthony Fasano.

MIAMI DOLPHINS—Signed LB Philip Wheeler to a five-year contract.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS—Signed LB Erin Henderson and WR Jerome Simpson.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS—Agreed to terms with LS Justin Drescher on a four-year contract.

NEW YORK GIANTS—Named Lunda Wells assistant offensive line coach, Ryan Roeder offensive assistant and Robbie Leonard defensive assistant. Signed PK Josh Brown.

OAKLAND RAIDERS—Signed DE Jason Hunter, LB Kaluka Maiava and DT Pat Sims.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS—Signed QB Bruce Gradkowski to a three-year contract and TE/FB David Johnson to a one-year contract.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS—Traded QB Alex Smith to Kansas City for a 2013 second-round draft pick and a future draft pick. Signed DE Gabe Carney to a two-year contract.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS—Signed S Dashon Goldson.

TENNESSEE TITANS—Agreed to terms with RB Shonn Greene and G Andy Levitre on multiyear contracts and DT Sammie Hill.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS—Re-signed DE Kedric Golston. Named Malcolm Blacken director of player development.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

NHL—Suspended Anaheim F Corey Perry four games for elbowing Minnesota F Jason Zucker in the head.

ANAHEIM DUCKS—Reassigned F Devante Smith-Pelly to Norfolk (AHL).

COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS—Recalled D Cody Goulet from an emergency basis from Springfield (AHL).

FLORIDA PANTHERS—Recalled F Jonathan Rheault from San Antonio (AHL).

MINNESOTA WILD—Signed D Brett Clark to a one-year contract. Activated G Darby Kuemper from injured reserve and reassigned him to Houston (AHL).

NEW JERSEY DEVILS—Reassigned LW Harry Yum from Albany (AHL) to Kalamaazoo (ECHL). Signed LW Reid Boucher.

NEW YORK ISLANDERS—Recalled F David Ulstrom on loan from Bridgeport (AHL).

WINNIPEG JETS—Recalled F Patrice Cormier from St. John's (AHL).

COLLEGE

AUBURN—Named James Armstrong assistant soccer coach.

AUSTIN PEAY—Announced the resignation of linebackers coach and recruiting coordinator Gary Shephard.

GEORGIA SOUTHERN—Named Clifford Yoshida defensive line coach.

IOWA STATE—Signed wrestling coach Kevin Jackson through 2015.

N.C. STATE—Named Drew Hughes director of football player personnel.

OHIO—Named James Ward cornerbacks coach.

SAN JOSE STATE—Fired men's basketball coach George Nessimian.

WASHINGTON—Suspended TE Austin Seferian-Jenkins indefinitely.

CHICAGO BEARS—Released TE Kellen Davis.

CLEVELAND BROWNS—Agreed to terms with LB Quentin Groves on a two-year contract and DL Desmond Bryant.

DETROIT LIONS—Agreed to terms with RB

## Coyotes

From Page 9

automatic qualifiers and 33 at-large bids, will be announced late next Monday night, following the NCAA Tournament selections. The first round would have played March 20-22.

IUPUI (20-11) earned the automatic berth from the Summit League by virtue of finishing second in the regular season standings. The Jaguars will make their first-ever Division I post-season appearance.

"That leaves the Coyotes on the 'bubble' for an at-large selection — which they earned last year thanks to a 22-7 record and a sub-100 RPI (87) under former coach Ryn Williams. USD's latest RPI this season is 193.

Two years ago, the program competed in the 16-team WBI, which utilizes an East-West format and does not require a bidding process. The teams are chosen based on RPI, strength of schedule, quality wins and "end of season trends."

The USD athletic department submitted a host bid to the WNIT, but that does not ensure an invitation, according to interim athletic director David Herbst.

"Right now you have to wait and see if you get selected," Herbst said Wednesday. "Bids are not a guarantee that you'll make the tournament, but we've done every-

thing we can do right now, just have to wait and see."

The Coyotes helped themselves by winning five of their final six games, including a pair of wins at the Summit League Tournament in their first year of eligibility.

"We're hoping that they'll consider us, and they'll look at the way we competed and finished the season strong," Amy Williams said.

Doing so flew in the face of pre-season expectations thrown at the Coyotes under a new coach. Picked to finish sixth in the Summit under Williams, who was hired in June 2012, USD suddenly found itself down to 10 active players because of season-ending injuries to five players.

A 6-2 start to the Summit League season showed that Williams was finding a way to get the job done early in her tenure,

Herbst said.

"That's the funny thing about hiring coaches, you don't know how right or wrong you are until a few years down the road," he said. "You don't know how it'll turn out."

"With this team, knowing what we lost and all the injuries they had, it really makes you feel good about the hire."

When it came time to taking the team to its first-ever Summit League Tournament, Williams and the Coyotes were faced with record crowds — filled with SDSU fans decked out in blue and yellow.

Tuesday's women's championship game boasted an attendance of 6,153, the highest ever for a women's session in league history.

"That was an unbelievable tournament atmosphere. For a mid-major conference to have that,



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